

**Menshek, Peggy Y**

---

**From:** verlena matey-keke <vmatey2001@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 23, 2012 1:39 PM  
**To:** Redistricting2012  
**Subject:** Follow up comments regarding proposed redistricting  
**Attachments:** Comments re proposed redistricting.docx

Dear Commissioners,

This memo is a folowup to the "comments regarding proposed redistricting" memo from yesterday (see atachment). After giving it more thought, it occurred to me that many of those in the decision making position on the Commission may not know the history of the struggle that went into the building of the African American institutions on the South Side of Minneapolis any more than they may know about the history of the Lee's family's homestead at 4601 Columbus Avenue, or the homestead of Michele Norris' family featured in "The Grace of Silence".

Even though the results are the same, I would like to give all of the Commissioners the benefit of the doubt.

Again, I respectfully request any help which may be forthcoming to stave what would undoubtedly be a catastrophe for the African American community. I thank you in advance for your kind consideration .

March 21, 2012

Re: My comments regarding the Proposed Redistricting

My name is Verlana Matey-Keke. I live at 4038 Third Avenue South and have lived here since 1970.

I am sending this message to the Redistricting Commission because I feel compelled to express my strong objection to the separating of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward from that part of the 9th Ward where African American Institutions are located in the Central neighborhood. I have no objections to any other part of the proposed redistricting.

At the public hearing held on Tue. March 20, I couldn't help but wonder if those with decision making authority noted that every African American that spoke, as well as some with other backgrounds, had objections to separating of the two Wards, and yet had no objections to any other part of the proposal.

I call your attention to the literature I picked up at the public hearing last evening, which says in part something about "cracking", in other words, "spreading minorities among so many districts that their voting power is diluted". It also says "it doesn't matter whether the effects are intentional or not". I ask that you consider those principles as you do a final draft of the redistricting map.

I see our city with the widest school achievement gap, the highest unemployment rate, the highest rate of incarceration for African Americans in the country, and I can tell you that part of the reason is the accumulative disingenuous acts that have produced the afore mentioned results.